

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 *Sub*
2 *ai* 1. A method for distributing a program sent by a content distributor to
a user location, the method comprising:
3 receiving a command from the content distributor to store the program at
4 the user location;
5 processing the command;
6 receiving the program at the user location;
7 storing the program at the user location in response to at least the
8 processing the command; and
9 detecting a user action related to the program after storage of the program.
- 1 2. The method for distributing the program sent by the content
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the program comprises at
3 least one of a commercial, an infomercial, a show, and a movie.
- 1 3. The method for distributing the program sent by the content
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the program comprises at
3 least one of a video program and an audio program.
- 1 4. The method for distributing the program sent by the content
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the user location comprises a
3 set top box.
- 1 5. The method for distributing the program sent by the content
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the storing the program
3 comprises storing the program on a mass storage device associated with a set top box that
4 is associated with the user location.
- 1 6. The method for distributing the program sent by the content
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
3 determining a subset of programs from a linear schedule of programs
4 associated with the content distributor; and
5 transmitting the subset to the user location.

1 *Sub*
2 7. The method for distributing the program sent by the content
3 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 1, wherein the processing the command
4 comprises determining usage rules related to the program.

1 8. A method for distributing a program sent by a content distributor to
2 a user location, the method comprising:
3 commanding the user location to store the program from the content
4 distributor; and
5 sending the program to the user location for storage before a user requests
6 the program.

1 9. The method for distributing the program sent by the content
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising determining a
3 subset of programs from a larger set of programs.

1 10. The method for distributing the program sent by the content
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising determining usage
3 rules for the program.

1 11. The method for distributing the program sent by the content
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising sending usage
3 rules for the program to the user location.

1 12. The method for distributing the program sent by the content
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, wherein the program is unmentioned
3 in a linear schedule.

1 13. The method for distributing the program sent by the content
2 distributor to the user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising broadcasting the
3 program to a plurality of user locations.

1 14. A distribution program product for distributing a program sent by a
2 content distributor to a user location, the distribution program product comprising:
3 code for receiving a command from the content distributor to store the
4 program at the user location;
5 code for processing the command;

6 code for receiving the program at the user location;
7 code for storing the program at the user location in response to at least the
8 processing the command;
9 code for detecting a user request for the program after storage of the
10 program; and
11 a computer-readable medium for storing the codes.

1 15. The distribution program product for distributing the program sent
2 by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the program
3 comprises at least one of a commercial, an infomercial, a reoccurring show, and a movie.

1 16. The distribution program product for distributing the program sent
2 by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the program
3 comprises at least one of a video program and an audio program.

1 17. The distribution program product for distributing the program sent
2 by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the user
3 location comprises a set top box.

1 18. The distribution program product for distributing the program sent
2 by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the code for
3 storing the program comprises code for storing the program on a mass storage device
4 associated with a set top box that is associated with the user location.

1 19. The distribution program product for distributing the program sent
2 by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, further comprising:
3 code for determining a subset of programs from a linear schedule of
4 programs associated with the content distributor; and
5 code for transmitting the subset to the user location.

1 20. The distribution program product for distributing the program sent
2 by the content distributor to the user location as recited in claim 14, wherein the code for
3 processing the command comprises code for determining usage rules related to the
4 program.